PRESIDENT: There is no motion for the reduction of these two grants. I take it that the House sanctions the two grants. The question is that a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,500 be made under Demand XXIII—Anchal Department.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XXIV—Miscellaneous Items.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 1,400 under Demand XXIV—Miscellaneous Items. The amount is for the expenses of the committee constituted for the investigation of the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme and for the continuance of the establishment of the Travancore Soldiers' Committee to the end of 1098. In the case of the latter item what is asked for really is to supplement the grant already sanctioned by the Council. You will find from the budget that a small sum of Rs. 400 has already been provided for this purpose. A further sum of Rs. 400 is found necessary to continue the establishment till the close of the year 1098. Hence the demand is made.

As for the other item, the Council will remember that, at the last meeting, a resolution was brought forward for the appointment of a "committee of experts to investigate the possibility of Kallar water being made use of for irrigational and other purposes in Travancore and as to how the proposed diversion of Kallar water and the generation of power in the Madura District will affect the interests of Travancore".

The motion was put to the vote and negatived by a majority. In view, however, of the trend of the discussion at that meeting of the Council, Government resolved to appoint a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to re-examine the agricultural, irrigational, forest and industrial aspects of the scheme after making a joint inspection and submit a report to the Government not later than the 31st December, 1922. The amount now asked for is to cover the expenses in connection with the work of this committee.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Sir, I have sent up notice of a motion to reduce this grant by Rs. 10. My object in sending this motion was two-fold. The first object is to express, on behalf of the defeated minority on the Kallar Scheme, its warm appreciation of the sympathy that the Government have shown to its opinion in preference to the opinion of the majority. Although the resolution of my friend, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, was lost, you have, Sir, with true statesmanlike wisdom, paused to consider and carry into effect the wishes of a defeated but strong minority, and thereby established a precedent worthy of your responsible and high position for the conduct of future administration. Sir, we thank you for this.

My second object is to make a few observations on the committee, its constitution, the nature of its work, etc. First of all, I think that the time allotted to the committee is scarcely sufficient to turn out any satisfactory work. Will this committee be able to study within the space of 3 or 4 weeks the various aspects of the scheme? Will it be

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[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

able to study within this short space of time the disadvantageous results that might accrue to Travancore owing to the diversion of Kallar water to the "thirsty lands of Madura"? To investigate and study these disadvantages involve an investigation into and study of the advantages which the waters of the Kallar are bestowing on the people and the country form its source to the sea. Can this be done in a month's time?

Now the advantage that Travancore is going to derive from this scheme is a more difficult matter.

PRESIDENT: The scheme itself is not before the House.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: I am not going to speak about the scheme. It depends upon the questions whether we shall be able to purchase electricity cheap, whether the Company will be able to make any profit, and, if so, what profit, etc. Do not these questions present highly scientific and mathematical problems which none but experts can answer? Are the members of the committee such experts as can be entrusted with the working out of these problems? If there are no such experts, the money that we are going to spend will be a waste. It will be a sin to spend it on the part of the Council and a sin to utilise it on the part of the committee. But if they are such experts as can be expected to solve the various problems involved in the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme, well and good; let the tax-payers of the State be benefited by their expert knowledge; and I would humbly request the Government to be pleased to extend the time allotted to them and even allow more money if necessary.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Sir, during the last session the most important subject that came up for discussion was this Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme. Very animated and eloquent speeches were made on both sides. The resolution brought forward by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai appeared to us a modest and reasonable one inasmuch as it asked only for the appointment of a committee to consider the whole matter before the scheme was sanctioned. Those who were halting between different opinions were converted by the convincing speeches from the official side and by a study of the *Press Communiqué*. With rapt attention we listened to the master-piece of eloquence of Professor Rangaswami Aiyangar and, knowing how sincere and honest he was in his utterances, we were converted to his opinion. It was represented that the scheme could not suffer to be delayed even for a day and that Travancore would be losing a golden opportunity of not only adding to her depleted exchequer, but also of developing her industries and lighting her towns with electricity and so forth. Now, without my saying, you can understand what a surprise it has been to see that the Government has gone back on the resolution which was vetoed by the Council and has appointed a committee to enquire and report leisurely on the matter. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar said that it could not be delayed even for a day. Now it is three months since he said so.

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PRESIDENT: You will have to understand it in a figurative sense.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: I am sure the official members on the other side will fully sympathise with those who voted against the resolution, in their awkward position. (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. No doubt, on the last occasion, many of us stood for a committee and wanted a committee to make an investigation—a scientific investigation—into the various problems involved. But with a small allotment of Rs. 1,000—and my friend, Mr. Panjikaran, assures us that the committee is to submit a report in the shortest possible time—it cannot be expected that any new data can be collected, any statistical information secured or any investigation worth the name made. If, on the other hand, the Government had come forward for an allotment of, say Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 50,000, it would have met with my hearty support and I would have been the first to ask the House to sanction it. With this paltry amount of Rs. 1,000 what can be done? We do not know what the personnel is going to be. There have already been weighty pronouncements from the Director of Agriculture, from the Conservator of Forests, etc. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar quoted the authority of some of the engineering officers of this State. Under these circumstances, I do not think that anything really useful can be secured by a small investigation of this nature.

Since we last discussed this subject, I happened to meet one of the engineers in the British Indian service—an Assistant Engineer who was in charge of the Kallar investigation. He was telling me that they had collected data which have not become available to the public. He gave me many facts and figures. As these figures are not relevant, I content myself with reiterating that with Rs. 1,000 nothing useful can be achieved.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I find myself in the same boat with Father Vettikkapalli in this matter. I said during the discussion on the scheme that I had half made up my mind to support Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai's motion, but that I was converted to the Government side after reading the Official *Communiquè* and hearing the most convincing speeches of Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar and the Law Member. I have the highest respect for Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar and I know that he never speaks except from firm conviction. He made out a strong case for the Government side and the point he urged was that the scheme was not only sound, but that it could not be delayed. Delay meant losing a golden opportunity which, once missed, would be missed for ever. I should certainly vote for the present motion, but before I do so, I should like to know what has happened in the interval for the situation to have altered.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, I was one of those who took part in the discussion on the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme at the last session of the Council and it may not be cut of place for me to speak a few words on the present occasion also. In regard to the observation of my friend, Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar, that the sum of Rs. 1,000 demanded for the expenses of

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[The President.]

the committee is not adequate, I may point out that this amount is intended practically to cover the travelling allowance to the two non-official members of the committee, because the travelling allowance to the official members will be met from the funds already provided in the budget which was discussed and passed by this Council at the last session. The committee proposes to visit the Kallar area at an early date, and, even if more than one visit is found necessary, the sum of Rs. 1,000 now asked for will suffice to meet the travelling allowance of the two non-official members. Regarding the constitution of the committee all that I wish to say is that it is composed of the experts available in Travancore. There are various aspects of the scheme to be considered. There is the agricultural aspect for which the Director of Agriculture is there. There is the forest aspect for which the Conservator of Forests is on the committee. There is the irrigational aspect for which there are two experienced Executive Engineers on the committee and, lastly, there is the industrial and electrical aspect for which the Electrical Engineer who has recently returned from Europe has been put on the committee. If the committee were to consist of local experts only, I do not think that its personnel could, in any way, be improved upon. If the Council thinks that Government should indent upon experts from outside to serve on the committee, I will certainly agree with Mr. Krishna Aiyar in thinking that a sum of Rs. 1,000 is quite insufficient. I will go further and say that in that case the expenditure may go up to several thousands of rupees or even a lakh.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: May I have some idea of the time that the investigation is going to take?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: In regard to the time required for finishing the work entrusted to the committee, it is not possible for me to say anything definite at present.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: May I know whether, by the proposed investigation, the committee will be able to arrive at a satisfactory solution as to the problems that confront us in this respect?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I am sorry I am unable to answer that question. The committee has not yet met and discussed the lines on which its work is to be conducted. I have already mentioned that there are different aspects of the scheme to be considered and the committee is composed of experts each of whom is competent to investigate one or other of these aspects. Until all the members have met and conferred together, it is not possible to lay down the *modus operandi*. I am only competent to deal with the agricultural aspect and I must consult my colleagues on the committee who are similarly competent to deal with other aspects before I can settle the plan of operation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: May I know whether the name of Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai could be added to the committee?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here. You may write to the Government about it.

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DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I may, however, point out to the House that the committee has been asked by Government not exactly to investigate the whole Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme, but only to re-examine—I say re-examine advisedly—the agricultural, industrial and other aspects of the scheme.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Is it meant to make any scientific research as to the amount of electricity that could be produced, etc., or simply to conduct a general survey?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I shall come to it presently.

Some data have already been collected and these are available to the committee. It may be able to collect more data by a visit to the spot and this is what the committee proposes to do at an early date. I wish to emphasise the fact that the committee has not got to make a complete investigation as there are already some data to proceed upon. I am not able to say at this stage whether the committee would be able to finish the work within the period allotted by Government. That will depend upon the method of investigation to be conducted and it will only be settled at a preliminary meeting of the committee which is proposed to be held at a very early date. It is true, Sir, that at the last session of this Council the Government opposed the resolution brought forward by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, recommending the appointment of a committee for the investigation of the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme and that that resolution was negatived.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the member tell us why and when the Government changed their opinion?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Even at that time it was pointed out that our Government were then in correspondence with the Government of Madras regarding the terms of payment for the water that would be diverted into the Madura District. The reply of the Madras Government, as far as I know, has not yet been received and it will take some time for the receipt of that reply. Government thought that during this interval the scheme might be re-examined and the various advantages and disadvantages reconsidered by a committee consisting of officials and non-officials as desired by the majority of the non-official members of this House and hence a committee has been appointed. This committee has not yet commenced its work and it is not known what line of investigation will be followed and what kind of report will be submitted. It is very unkind on the part of the gentlemen on the other side of the House to attack the committee and condemn it at this stage.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: We neither attack nor condemn it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I did not want to speak on this occasion until Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai had had his say. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has emphasised the term "re-examination" and seems to deliberately exclude the term "investigation". He said that Government had practically accepted the resolutiou that was once negatived in

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

this House. I hope it were so. I do not know where to draw the line of distinction between "investigation," as understood by us and the contemplated "re-examination" as understood by Dr. Kunjan Pillai. This House, when it voted on the resolution at the last session, knew full well the significance of the term "investigation". In whatever sense the two terms have been understood by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, it appears to me that re-examination on the data already available as stated by him is not exactly the spirit of the resolution discussed in this House.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, may I correct the member? I mean re-examination of the data in the light of the information that the committee might collect by a visit to the spot.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: So then, it comes to this. The committee will collect further information to verify the data already available and to shape their final opinion on the matters referred to them. That, I suppose, constitutes further "investigation" and nothing else. I do not know why the term "investigation" is boycotted by the Director of Agriculture. He seems to draw a distinction, the significance of which I do not see.

PRESIDENT: If I may interrupt, I may say that we have a certain set of data, and to that extent the present investigation is saved.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The data already available may not be the correct data to base the opinion of the committee upon. The data already available are, in fact, conflicting with one another and it was on that account that we emphasised the necessity for the appointment of a committee to carry on further investigation. Now a committee has been appointed. I do not wish to go into the personnel of the committee. That question does not arise at present. I might also state, in answer to Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's question as to why the proposer of that resolution was also not put in, that I do not myself feel competent to serve on a committee of experts to investigate either the agricultural, irrigational, forest, industrial or electrical aspects of the scheme. I put forward that resolution as a layman, a citizen of this land who desired further investigation being conducted in order to conserve the best interests of the country.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I want to tell Mr. Parameswaran Pillai that I suggested his name as a layman, a citizen, and not as an expert. (*Laughter.*)

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: From the explanation offered by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, it is seen that the committee will not rest satisfied with the data already available, but will exert themselves to the utmost extent possible to collect all accurate information that may be necessary for the decision of the questions referred to them; and I hope they will discharge their function to the best of their ability and judgment.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Sir, by way of reply I have to make one or two observations. I think that the tone of some of the

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members who voted against the resolution about the Kallar Scheme is highly objectionable. They seem to think that the Government have committed a crime in "going back", on the resolution that was lost. I think that every enlightened Government ought to respect the wishes of a defeated but strong minority, instead of blindly sticking to the position chanced to be taken up by a majority.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: May I correct the member? That was not the point. We wanted to know whether further facts after that had come to change the mind of the Government.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: My friend, Dr. Kunjan Pillai, says that I was attacking the committee. No, I was not attacking the committee but I was requesting the Government that, if this committee could be expected to do useful work, it might be given more time and more money for the work. That is all that I want to observe.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Sir, I have also tabled an analogous motion and I have not yet spoken. I beg to be permitted to speak now. I oppose the whole demand, because I think that this committee is not necessary. At the last session of the Council a resolution was brought forward to the effect that a committee should be appointed to investigate the whole scheme. It was not merely for the sake of a committee that the resolution was brought. What the mover of the resolution wanted was a committee to investigate the whole affair and see whether this scheme and the contract with Messrs. Alfred Dickinson and Co. would affect the industrial or agricultural interests of the country. His motion was for the appointment of a committee of experts. Most of the members who are now on the present committee were present in the Council and they expressed their opinion definitely. The opinion of the majority of the members who were present at the last session was that the Kallar Scheme was advantageous to Travancore. But most of the non-official members were not satisfied, were not convinced, that the scheme was for the good of the country and it was just to point out to the people how the scheme would be for the advantage of the country that a committee was sought to be appointed. At that time the Government opposed the motion. Now the committee is appointed. I can say with due deference to the members of the committee that there are not many experts in it. I would say that even those who are experts are those who have already expressed their definite opinion on the scheme. We want to investigate how much electricity could be produced and whether it could be utilised for Travancore, whether the scheme would affect the cultivation of the tracts near the Alwaye river and so many other questions which have been raised. But Dr. Kunjan Pillai's speech bewilders anybody who has no knowledge about the committee. He himself says that the line of investigation cannot be now explained. The object of the committee is rather vague. We do not know what the conclusions will be. They must meet and discuss. They do not know what is to be investigated. Under these

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

circumstances, the appointment of a committee is not at all necessary. Moreover, it is widely known what the report of the committee will be.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you are justified in saying that.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Because some of the members of this Council who are on the committee said that they had visited the place and conducted the investigation and found that the scheme was devised in the best interests of the State. I do not think that they are going to investigate further; they will be simply re-examining the data available.

Coming now to the second part of the motion, it is not clear what they are going to do with regard to the Soldiers' Committee. I do not know what that committee is doing.

PRESIDENT: They are doing much good work. You should know what they are doing before you oppose the motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: I think they are not serving any useful purpose, as far as I know. I do not know whether they are doing anything secretly. So, I oppose the whole motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I rise to oppose Mr. Madhava Variar's motion. I shall first give him the information he wanted regarding the Soldiers' Committee. The committee consists of 10 members with the Commandant, Nair Brigade, as Chairman. I do not think it necessary to quote the names of the members. The object of the Committee is to deal with the questions affecting the interests of serving, discharged and deceased Indian soldiers and non-combatants and their dependents as also the claim for re-employment in the case of discharged soldiers. Their applications for re-employment are investigated and reported to the heads of departments and also to Government.

PRESIDENT: Grant of lands also.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Yes. The question of application for grant of lands to these persons is also investigated by the committee.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: May I know from the Chief Secretary how many of these disbanded soldiers the Government of Travancore have employed during 1097?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: The proceedings of the committee are published in the Gazette periodically.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Although they are published, if the official member is able to give us the information, it will be useful for the discussion at present.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: They hold periodical meetings and investigate the applications. I cannot exactly say just now how many were actually employed. As a matter of fact, I know that a large

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number of the disbanded Soldiers have been employed in the Excise, Police and Revenue Departments.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put the motion for the grant to the vote. The question is that a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,400 be made under Demand XXIV—Miscellaneous Items.

The motion was carried, 30 members voting *for* and 5 *against*.

The grant was made.

The House rose for lunch at 2-30 P. M.

The Council met again after lunch at 3-4 P. M.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of 3·22 thousands of rupees (as an addition to the grants already allowed) under

	Rs. (in thousands)
Demand VIII Registration	·24
„ XVIII Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda, etc. ...	·08
„ XX Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	·47
„ XXI Do.	2·23
„ XXIV Miscellaneous	·20

This is intended, as already stated in the notice, to provide the funds necessary for giving effect to the reorganisation of the departments referred to therein, *viz.*, the offices of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the Chemical Examiner, etc.

At the time that the budget was passed, the reorganisation of these departments on the basis of the recommendations of the Salaries Committee had not been sanctioned, and so, in the budget we could not make any specific provision for meeting the additional expenses that would be required for the purpose of sanctioning the reorganisation. However, with a view to find funds for the reorganisation, Government had provided a sum of Rs. 35,000 under the head "Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous" and that amount was sanctioned by the Council. The proposal now is merely this, *viz.*, to allow the amounts required for the reorganisation as supplements to the demands already sanctioned under the various heads I have mentioned, and at the same time to reduce the grant to the same extent under the head of Miscellaneous, and to keep it as a reserve with the Government. Government thought that supplementary grants were necessary in these cases on the technical ground that the original demands under the respective heads did not make specific provision for the expenditure in connection with the reorganisation. However, we had the provision under another demand sanctioned by the Council. Now, what is proposed is practically to effect a reappropriation from the head "Miscellaneous" to the various heads now mentioned. Though substantially what is proposed is only a reappropriation, still it was thought necessary on merely technical grounds to obtain the vote of the Council for additional grants under the various heads mentioned. I therefore move that the demand be granted.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: So, there is no substantial increase in the expenditure?

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[The President.]

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Sir, I beg to make a motion to reduce the allotment by Rs. 200. I make this motion simply to discuss the principle.

PRESIDENT: What principle?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: The Salaries Committee recommended that the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies must be amalgamated with that of the head of some other department.

PRESIDENT: It is a question of policy and it is matter for a resolution.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: I thought that I could have a general discussion on the matter.

PRESIDENT: A question of policy can be discussed only at budget time.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: When there is a demand for a supplementary grant, I thought I could discuss it.

As I believe that the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies is unnecessary, I oppose this demand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to oppose this motion for a grant, because I think that there is a Government Bacteriologist, a well-paid gentleman, who can also look after the work of the Chemical Examiner. There is no necessity to spend any additional sum of money on a Chemical Examiner, because the Bacteriologist can do this work also without any disadvantage to his other legitimate work.

PRESIDENT: That, again, is a question of policy. It is a question of amalgamating two departments.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: That is purely a kind of research work—academical work.

PRESIDENT: Well, if you bring it up as a resolution, Government may be able to give reasons why the two departments should be maintained separately. This is hardly the time for bringing up a question of policy.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Sir, I rise to a point of order as to whether we could not discuss a question of policy at the time of supplementary grants.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that you can discuss it at the time of supplementary grants. That is my ruling.

MR. K. GEORGE: The amount under "Chemical Examiner" does not include anything. The reorganisation is only for the staff.

PRESIDENT: May I request the gentlemen who propose to vote for this motion for the grant of Rs. 3·22 thousands for these departments, to raise their hands?

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The motion was put and carried, 29 voting *for* and 3 *against*. The grant was made.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I shall now request the Deputy President to take the chair.

The Deputy President, in taking the Chair amidst loud cheers, said: "Let me thank you most sincerely for the kind welcome that you have now accorded to me. This is the first occasion given to me to take the Chair as Deputy President. It was not without considerable misgivings that I accepted this office when it was first offered to me; but, even then, I felt I could count upon the moral support of my friends on both sides of the House in discharging my duty, and I have no doubt that the welcome with which you have encouraged me at the outset of my life as Deputy President will be a constant factor throughout the period when I shall have the honour of continuing as such. With these words I take the Chair."

THE LAND ACQUISITION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Land Acquisition Regulation Amendment Bill. The Select Committee has not made any modification in the original Bill and has not thought it necessary to do so. I, therefore, beg to move that the Bill, as revised by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration now.

MR. K. GEORGE: I second it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. I take it that the House agrees to the proposition.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: I do not think that there is notice of any amendment to the Bill and I believe we may therefore take it that the Bill is accepted by the Council without any modification.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I take it that the House agrees to the Bill being accepted without any modification, especially as I find that no amendment has been sent up.

The motion was agreed to.

THE TOLLS RECOVERY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Tolls Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill and I beg to move that the same be taken into consideration now.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: I second it.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: I think that Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has got an amendment.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, you may move your amendment.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following amendment to the Tolls Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, as revised by the Select Committee:

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